

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02645 081341Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
SSM-03 /088 W

-----060178 090257Z /21

R 081248Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1651

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2645

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PBOF, PEPR, LE, IS, XF, SA

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

1. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-MANSOURI TOLD CHARGE AND POL COUN ON APRIL 3 THAT SAUDI ARABIA WISHED TO ACKNOWLEDGE U.S. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN PERSUADING PLO TO OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON. MANSOURI SAID THAT PLO HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD OBSERVE CEASE-FIRE. HE IMPLIED THAT HE SAW NO NEED NOW FOR FURTHER ACTION BY SAG.

2. CHARGE NOTED THAT SPORADIC SHELLING BY PLO WAS STILL GOING ON AND THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT PALESTINIANS BE
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 02645 081341Z

ABSOLUTELY SCRUPULOUS IN OBSERVANCE OF CEASE-FIRE. MANSOURI SAID THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD NOT OVERREACT. CEASE FIRE IS GENERALLY OBSERVED. IT IS AT LEAST 90-95 PERCENT EFFECTIVE.

TROUBLE COMES FROM SMALL PALESTINIAN SPLINTER GROUPS, WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. BEST SOLUTION IS FOR ISRAELIS TO WITHDRAW AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. CHARGE SAID ISRAELIS WERE THINNING OUT THEIR FORCES. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER UNIFIL COULD CONTROL TERRITORY OR WHETHER PLO IS GOING TO USE TERRITORY TO ATTACK ISRAELIS. SITUATION NOW BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND LITANI REVERS IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE BREAKDOWN OF CEASE-FIRE.

4. MANSOURI SAID THAT SYRIA COULD CONTROL AREA BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND LITANI IF IT WANTED TO. SYRIANS HAVE THE POWER BUT UNFORTUNATELY THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO INTERVENE EVERY TIME THERE IS FIRING. SYRIA IS IN DIFFICULT POSITION BECAUSE IT CANNOT PUT ITSELF IN POSITION OF DEFENDING ISRAEL. QADHAFI IS ALREADY ACCUSING SYRIA OF DEFENDING ISRAEL AGAINST PALESTINIANS.

5. CHARGE SAID THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IT WAS IN INTEREST OF SAUDI ARABIA AND U.S. THAT SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON QUIET DOWN. WE URGE SAUDI ARABIA TO HELP ANY WAY IT CAN. MANSOURI SAID IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO TELL PLO NOT TO SHOOT AT ISRAELIS WHILE THEY ARE OCCUPYING SOUTH LEBANON. CHAREG SAID THAT WE ARE TRYING TO GET UNIFIL INTO SOUTH LEBANON AND ISRAELIS OUT. WE HOPE THIS WILL RESTORE SOME MEASURE OF STABILITY TO SOUTH LEBANON. THIS IS A GOAL WE SHOULD BOTH STRIVE FOR.

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PAGE 03 JIDDA 02645 081341Z

6. COMMENT: SAG SUPPORTS CEASE-FIRE AND WILL DO ITS BEST BEHIND THE SCENES TO KEEP IT FROM BREAKING DOWN. HOWEVER, SAG APPARENTLY DOES NOT THINK IT CAN AFFORD TO BE SEEN TO BE PRESSING ON PALESTININAS TOO OFTEN TO REFRAIN FROM FIRING ON ISRAELIS. THIS COULD OPEN DOOR TO THEIR ALSO BEING ATTACKED BY QADHAFI AND OTHER REJECTIONISTS AS TOOL OF ISRAEL. BEST SOLUTION IS TO GET AS SPEEDY AS POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES.
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Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PBOR, PGOV, PEPR, LE, IS, XF, SA
To: STATE
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